

NEWSLETTER

VASCO DA GAMA

If you were to ask an educated European to name as many famous Portuguese as she could, one of the few names to be mentioned would certainly be Vasco da Gama. Yet apart from the fact that in 1498 Gama commanded the first European fleet to arrive off the coast of India, most people know very little about his life. What sort of person was he? Why was he selected for this important mission? Why did he disappear from mainstream history after his epic voyage? His pioneering voyage changed forever the profile of world history, and yet his story is best known through Portugal's classical epic *Os Lusíadas*. Are there any other tributes to this famous but unknown figure in history? Where is Gama buried? Is he still all in one place? Peter Booker attempts to put the record straight and to shed more light on this historical paradox, the famous man about whom most people know nothing.

MARCH EVENTS

MONDAY 4 at 6 pm

Municipal Library, Tavira

The Magic of Astrology

by Cornelius Passchier

TUESDAY 12 at 6 pm

Municipal Library, Lagoa

The History and Culture of Angola

by Julio Cardoso

FRIDAY 22 at 11 am

Municipal Library, Tavira

TUESDAY 26 at 6 pm

Municipal Library, Lagoa

The Portuguese Court in Brazil

by Rachel Barnard

MONDAY 4

Municipal Library, Tavira 6 pm

TUESDAY 12

Municipal Library, Lagoa 6 pm

The Art of the Vatican

by Mary Mountford de Hunt

TUESDAY 19

Municipal Library, Tavira 5.30 pm

Debate on Global Warming

*With Clive Jackson, David Johnson,
Martin Stroomer and Peter Booker*

Chaired by Lynne

FRIDAY 22

Municipal Library, Tavira 11 am

TUESDAY 26

Municipal Library, Lagoa 6 pm

Vasco da Gama

By Peter Kingdon Booker

SATURDAY 23

Quintinha da Música 5 pm

SUNDAY 24

Venue to be confirmed 11.30 am

Concert with Trio Aeturnus

Alexander Stewart (violin), Lucjan

Luc (piano) and Varoujan Bartikian

(cello)

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THE ART OF THE VATICAN BY MARY MOUNTFORD DE HUNT

For all of her life, Mary Mountford de Hunt has been involved in different aspects of the world of Art. Her interest in lecturing started in Brazil, where she was exhibiting her own paintings. Because in the 1970s so little had been written about Brazilian Art or even recorded on the subject, she was invited to research the subject for a series of lectures on Brazilian Art. In the 1980s she and husband Arthur moved to the USA where Mary joined a large private Contemporary Art museum as a lecturer. Later she and Arthur opened their own gallery in New York.

In 1983 part of the Vatican art collection came to New York, and Mary had access to this most secretive of collections through her museum contacts. Information about the collection and

photographic slides were also made available to her. This current lecture on the Vatican Art Collection is a result of Mary Hunt being in the right place at the right time. She calls her lecture *a mini history of Western Art*.

A dinner has been organised at a local restaurant following the talk in Tavira and Mary will be available at this dinner for further discussion of the Vatican art world.

Please contact me ASAP to book dinner.



CONCERT WITH VAROUJAN BARTIKIAN, LUCJAN LUC AND ALEXANDER STEWART

Varoujan Bartikian has been playing in public since the age of 10. Born in Armenia he studied in a music school which specialised in the music of Tchaikovsky. He studied at the Conservatory in Yerevan from 1978 - 1983. He has won various prizes. He moved to Portugal in 1989 and began playing as soloist and integral member of the Gulbenkian Orchestra. He has also played with the Philharmonic Orchestra of Armenia. In 1991 he formed the Trio Bartikian with pianist Michel Gal and clarinetist Esther Gerogie. From 2001 he has been cellist with the Quarteto Capela and he has made a number of recordings. He teaches cello and chamber music at the Piaget Institute.

Lucjan Luc was born in Poland where he began his studies at the Chopin Music School. He studied piano with Professor Andrzej Jasinski and he finished his studies at the Superior Music Academy in Katowice. He has performed as soloist with various chamber groups and with the Philharmonic Orchestra of Poland, the Classic Orchestra of Porto and the Metropolitan Orchestra in Lisbon. For many years he has been accompanist at São Carlos National Theatre in Lisbon and elsewhere in Portugal. At present he is working in Spain with the Orchestra of Estremadura, and the Choir of the University of Estremadura where he also works as accompanist.

Alexander Stewart was born in the UK and began his studies with his father Walter Stewart. He gained a scholarship at King's School, Canterbury where he won numerous prizes. In 1982 he became Eric Gruenberg's pupil at the Guildhall School of Music. After graduating he took a scholarship to study in Poland. He has given various concerts and recitals in England, Poland and Portugal and he has recorded for radio and TV. More recently he performed as soloist in a cycle of Bach's Brandenburg Concerti as well as performing the Bach Double Violin Concerto with Nicholas Chumachenko. He is presently one of the concert masters in the Portuguese Symphony Orchestra. He is also the first violin and founding member of the Lacerda String Quartet.

DEBATE ON GLOBAL WARMING

Clive Jackson, seconded by Martin Stroomer will propose the motion **This House does not believe that human action has any significant impact on Climate Change** David Johnson and Peter Booker will oppose the motion. Members of the public will have an opportunity to vote both before and after the debate and they will also have the opportunity to ask the panel questions.